

## BiOp Project Site Tour Evaluation

Project Name: Catherine Creek 44

Date: 10/1/2013

Rating: High

### Addresses key/limiting environmental attributes (fisheries & water quality)

Sponsors identified limiting factors and actions to address those. LF's are habitat diversity, flow, temperature, water quantity, off-channel habitat, passage, sediment.

### Proposed Actions

Do proposed actions address limiting factors. Are actions clearly defined and appropriate to address limiting factors.

Until we see water conservation data through the point of diversion consolidation and piping, we don't know if the project will benefit flow. Actions address factors better in unconstrained reaches. Planners are doing what is possible to address limiting factors in constrained reaches per landowner constraints. Overall project is addressing limiting factors to the greatest extent possible given feasibility.

### Technical merit

Is the project is technically sound, i.e., are objectives well defined, do proposed actions address problems identified in the prospectus, are techniques technically sound

Project developers considered all possible restoration scenarios. Interagency planning started with strong biological input identifying broad scope of restoration activities. It is a strong technical proposal.

### Recommendations for improvement

Technically there were no recommendations for improvement. However planners should have discussed and planned more for the water right transfer process earlier in project development stage..

### Misc comment

Suggested steps for water right transfer: 1.) Get the draft assessment from BOR. ODFW preliminary review of the assessment and feedback. IWM versus water right. 2.) Determine method for securing water instream. 3.) Discuss with landowners and secure commitment. 4.) Implement process for securing water instream. 5.) ODFW would respond to Water Resources with consent to injury of instream water right. Provide updates to key partners regarding the water issue.

### Contingencies

### Recommendation

BPA line item for the pipeline and diversion should be moved back to Fiscal Year 2015 with a budget note to GRMW Board of Directors. Following completion of net benefit analysis and water transfer, secure/obligate NRCS equip funding (Fiscal Year 2014).

Sponsor should seek OWEB cost share.

- October 2013 submission: \$100,000 for habitat work

- April 2014 submission: \$100,000 for pipeline and diversion

Contact Brian Wolcott, Walla Walla Watershed Council regarding project funding for pipeline.

### Budget

Typical excavation rate is \$5 not \$11. Adjust

Revise planting plan and costs. Containerized plant and protection totals over \$140K. Augment with live cuttings.